

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 18 with the following replacement paragraph:

The method of the invention reduces the scaling of either of the membranes used in the method, thus increasing the lifetime of the membrane in question and maintaining a high ~~retention~~ passage rate as regards the salts to be permeated. The method further prevents biomass from plugging the nanofiltration membrane, thereby maintaining a higher throughput of permeates through the membrane as compared to conventional one-step processes.